



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Group Art Unit 1641

Patent Application of

Thierry Gicquel, et al.

Serial No. 09/554,167

Filed: July 11, 2000

Examiner: K. Padmanabhan

“REACTION VESSELS, A SET OF SUCH  
VESSELS, AND AN IMMUNOLOGICAL ASSAY  
METHOD AND APPARATUS IMPLEMENTING  
SUCH SETS OF VESSELS”

I, P. Brandenburg, hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an  
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Signature

11/21/01  
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**AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING**  
**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.114**

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Commissioner for Patents  
Box RCE  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This responds to the Office action mailed May 23, 2001, for which a response was  
due August 23, 2001. A request for a three-month extension of time is being filed herewith.

As stated in the Examiner's Advisory Action mailed September 3, 2001, Applicants'  
Amendment After Final dated August 23, 2001, was not entered. Accordingly, the current  
claims are in the form of the claims after Applicants' Amendment dated April 30, 2001.

Prior to continued examination of the above-identified patent application, please  
amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

11. (Twice Amended) Automatic apparatus for immunological assay, the  
apparatus comprising means for supporting, guiding, and stepwise displacement of vessels, or  
of sets of reaction vessels along a path having a predetermined number of positions, means